



September/October 2019

**A compassionate Church is a merciful Church;
with the poor the Church discovers the best in itself.
A place to learn this truth is with incarcerated men and women.**

Fr. Gary Smith, SJ



**CELEBRATION OF THE MASS
FEAST OF ST. LUKE
OCTOBER 18, 2019
SANTIAM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
SALEM, OREGON**

In the past year, Archbishop Sample has visited six of the eight Oregon Department of Corrections facilities in Western Oregon. He witnesses to the truth that "with the poor the Church discovers the best in itself" and that we learn this when we spend time with incarcerated men and women. His own experience of prison ministry as a newly ordained priest lives within him and draws him to return so that these men and women, though away and out of sight, can hear him say that they are remembered and remain part of our community; so they can hear him say, "God loves you the same as he loves me - no difference."



Visits by the Archbishop to our prisons are possible because of the "inside" communities and relationships sustained by the dedicated Catholic men and women volunteers who minister to Adults in Custody regularly. Both lay and clergy come to the prisons as a team, supporting one another in performing this corporal work of mercy. They listen to the stories of those who are incarcerated, teach about the Faith, celebrate Mass and Communion Services, study the Bible. But most importantly, they are there. Prison ministry requires no special skill other than a listening, compassionate heart.



In what corporal work of mercy are you engaged? Please consider prison ministry and share in the joy!

For more information, contact:

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